

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 46**  
**INCIDENT NO. 97-015**  
**DATE: June 4, 1997      TIME: 1:00 P.M.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Although inflows into Devils Lake have decreased, the lake level continues to rise. The lake level was at 1,442.2 feet MSL at Creel Bay on June 4. The lake is forecasted to peak in mid-July.  
  
In Barnes County, excessive debris is clogging the Sheyenne River channel. Also, vehicles rerouted from a flooded portion of I-94 to Old Highway 10 are damaging the roadway.
4. RESOURCES:  
  
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.  
  
STATE: No change from previous reports.  
  
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Mennonite Disaster Services crews have cleaned 25 flooded homes, located primarily in the Grand Forks area.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor Schafer met with members of the North Dakota Legislative Council on June 3 and provided an update on the 1997 flood response and recovery. The governor discussed four areas: public infrastructure; housing; business; and, employment. He also outlined options available for financing the state's share of recovery.

The deadline for individuals and businesses to register for disaster assistance has been extended from June 6 to July 7, 1997. Individuals and business owners who sustained damages should call the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Teleregistration Center, (800) 462-9029. Individuals seeking Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) have until June 30 to file claims with their local Job Service North Dakota office.

Job Service has received a \$1.5 million grant for flood recovery jobs from the Disaster Assistance Program (DAP), authorized under Title III of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). The agency has already received a \$1 million DAP grant. That grant employs 110 flood victims. The new grant will fund up to 450 more jobs. Existing and new funds will be used for employment projects, including: operation of three Grand Forks day care centers, where 135 children are enrolled; city and street cleanup and restoration in Grand Forks;

operation of a contractor clearinghouse; and park cleanup and restoration projects in two cities, Grand Forks and Wahpeton. Job Service is coordinating the employment projects with FEMA and North Dakota Emergency Management.

Staff at the "one stop shop" in Grand Forks issued 1,766 identification badges to contractors and transient merchants during April 27 to May 30. Of those, 428 were contractors, including 230 new in-state and out-of-state contractor companies. During June, the shop will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Participating agencies include the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the N.D. Workers Compensation Bureau and Job Service. The North Dakota Air National Guard provided security and assisted with production of identification badges.

State and federal officials conducted a teleconference training session on June 3 for service agencies working with North Dakotans who have special needs and may need disaster assistance. Presenters outlined available assistance programs during the training session, which was broadcast through satellite communications to groups in Grand Forks, Devils Lake, Fargo and Bismarck. Presenters included representatives of the FEMA, the N.D. Department of Human Services, SBA, the State/Federal Hazard Mitigation Program, N.D. Department of Health, American Red Cross and Legal Assistance of North Dakota. Disaster workers are making concerted efforts to encourage individuals with special needs to register damages with the National Teleregistration Center by July 7.

The Nelson County Social Services Department developed an outreach program to address special needs for Grand Forks residents displaced by flooding. More than 900 flood survivors stayed at shelters or at Nelson County homes. Five outreach workers are helping displaced persons obtain supplies, access free counseling services and register with FEMA's National Teleregistration Center. The program is conducted through Lutheran Social Services and the Northeast Human Service Center.

The N.D. Department of Health reported that up to 30,000 tetanus shots were administered at the following sites: Grand Forks Public Health Department at its temporary location at the Grand Forks Air Force Base; Lake Region District Health Unit; Nelson-Griggs District Health Unit; Pembina County Health Department; Cavalier County Health District; Walsh County Health Department; and Northwood Hospital.

State and FEMA hazard mitigation staff members have been meeting with officials in the Red River Valley to develop mitigation and long-term recovery project proposals.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been taking biological samplings of mold and fungal growth in Grand Forks. Twenty samples were collected from households, 18 from area day care centers and one from United Hospital.

The National Guard currently has 29 members on State Active Duty, helping with disaster recovery work. Members have been assigned to assist with the donations warehouses in Grand Forks and Casselton, perform maintenance work on vehicles used during the flood response, and produce identification badges.

A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) will open at the Ramsey County Courthouse on June 5. The Devils Lake DRC and three others in Grand Forks, Fargo and Pembina will remain open until further notice. Staff includes representatives of the N.D. Department of Human Services, the Small Business Administration, and FEMA. The DRCs operate Monday through Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

By June 4, the State/Federal Disaster Field Office (DFO) had received 345 Notice of Interest applications for participation in the FEMA Public Assistance Program. Applicants include: 49 counties; 170 cities; 14 electrical cooperatives; four tribal governments; 23 state agencies; 13 park districts; 16 water districts; five universities; 28 public school districts; nine municipal airports; three fire departments; one public service agency; two historical societies; one nursing home; and, seven private nonprofit organizations. The Public Assistance staff continues to work with 38 private nonprofit organizations to determine their eligibility.

More than \$11.4 million has been paid to local governments and qualified private nonprofit organizations in Public Assistance Program funds for infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal thus far. Six

inspectors have been added to the Grand Forks area; 78 are now working in the field.

Nearly 33,800 North Dakotans have reported personal property damages to the National Teleregistration Center (NTC). Of those applicants, more than 21,000 had received \$19,190,942 in Disaster Housing assistance. The SBA has received 7,907 loan applications. Of these, 3,368 have been approved for a total of approximately \$70 million in loans. The state Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program has awarded \$1,857,086 in grants. The average IFG grant is \$1,135.

Job Service received 5,974 claims and paid \$1,645,733 in DUA benefits. State job insurance benefit applications taken between April 21 and May 30 total 15,608 compared to 2,320 during the same time period last year.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Other web site addresses for flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>  
N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>  
N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>  
N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>  
U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director